



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • APRIL 4, 2021

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber 5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$50,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Inspectional Services Department Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to provide funds to implement a pilot of SMART Box and SMART Pipe rodent control technology in the City. This appropriation also is in response to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-12.

CMA 2022 #63

This communication is in response to this [policy order](#) that I, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, and Mayor Siddiqui put forward in March to introduce the SMART Box rodent control system in Cambridge which is being piloted in Somerville and in use in Portland, ME. The Department of Public Works and the City Manager's office were happy to report that this appropriation of \$50,000 would be able to provide the City 40-50 SMART Boxes and 10 rodent pipes. With the appropriation being approved tonight, the DPW will be able to move forward with this purchase immediately with scheduled implementation by May. Our neighbors in Somerville have seen success with the SMART Box technology, trapping and killing 30 rodents over 2 weeks, and then 82 rodents in 4 weeks' time with 50 boxes. Before the boxes are placed around the City, the SMART Box company will visit the City and help decide where to place the boxes and pipes for maximum impact. The City will also continue to look at other mitigation measures such as reaching out directly to certain neighborhoods, rodent birth control to help curb the rodent population, and implementing the new [trash barrel program](#), which is anticipated to be the most effective at controlling the rat problem as losing access to food waste is the #1 mitigation strategy for rats. These new, rodent-proof barrels are set to arrive in June and replacement will begin soon after.

This item was placed on file.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-69, regarding a report on creating a uniform process for aiding the resettlement of refugees in Cambridge.

CMA 2022 #64

This communication is in response to this [policy order](#) put forward by Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Carlone, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, and myself in October of last year. There was discussion about adding the Mayor's Office as a site people can go to for help, information on fuel assistance, and translating the New Resident Resource List into multiple languages.

This item was placed on file.

3. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the transfer of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant funds from the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account in the amount of \$30,404.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will enable the Community Learning Center to purchase laptops and Chromebooks for students and staff.
CMA 2022 #65

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

4. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of new Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) funds in the amount of \$91,054.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$4,641.00); and to the Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$86,413.00) which will be administered by the Fuel Assistance Program and will help eligible households pay water and sewer bills to restore or maintain access to drinking water and wastewater services.
CMA 2022 #66

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-63, regarding food insecurity.
CMA 2022 #67

This communication is in response to this [policy order](#) put forward by Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Carlone, and myself to look into directing Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to address food insecurity by installing raised garden beds throughout Cambridge and providing free, fresh, locally-grown food for residents in need. It was reported that a new garden intern has been hired to assist with this process, and there will be a public process for rewriting the garden policy. These public meetings will occur monthly for the duration of the garden season. Additionally, there was discussion about the [Double Up Food Bucks Program](#) that Daily Table participates in. This grant money that is funded through the City that I helped secure for local markets and stores gives SNAP users a 2-for-1 dollar match on fresh produce, ultimately totaling up to \$5 off produce daily. A discount like this can greatly increase the amount of nutritious food low-income families are able to buy, and helps them stretch their budget that much further. Another one of our local markets, Pemberton Farms, has asked to join this program, and I asked the Community Development Department to invite the rest of our local markets and bodegas that sell produce to participate in this great program as well.

This item was placed on file.

6. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$1,785,000, from Free Cash to the General Fund Public Works Other Ordinary Maintenance account which will be used for snowstorm related expenses associated with snow

plowing and snow removal contracts, salt, and other materials.

CMA 2022 #68

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$500,000 from Free Cash to the Public Works Public Investment Fund Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund snowstorm related street repairs.

CMA 2022 #69

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

8. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$915,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Extraordinary Expenditures account to fund the procurement of five pieces of equipment for use in snow and ice operations.

CMA 2022 #70

This appropriation is to purchase new equipment for snow and ice removal. These new additions to the fleet will help the DPW clear bike lanes as well as the streets and sidewalks. There was discussion about electric and hybrid options for a new front loader, and it was reported to the Council that John Deere is the closest to having a hybrid option available, but there is currently not one small enough to fit on our City's streets. It was also noted that although the current fleet does not have hybrid vehicles, they are run on biodiesel in the winter, and V20 in the summer months. The DPW is looking to make strides toward running on V20 year round in the near future.

This item was placed on file.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 21-45, regarding the feasibility of waiving dog license fees.

CMA 2022 #71

This communication is in response to this [policy order](#) put forward by Councillor McGovern asking the City Manager to direct the City Solicitor's office to draft amendment language allowing dog license fees to be waived for residents over 70 years old. This law has been in place for over 20 years, and other local municipalities can put this law into practice by creating a local ordinance. Although I was surprised that this was not brought to the City and Council's attention 20 years ago, I am delighted that we are able to move forward and make a difference with it now.

This item was moved to a second reading and will appear on the Monday, April 25th Council meeting agenda for passage.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. The Ordinance Committee met on February 9, 2022 to conduct a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (2021-26).

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
IN COUNCIL MARCH 28, 2022
ON THE TABLE**

This item was placed on the table.

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for new appointments and reappointment to Open Data Review Board for a term of two year.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022
CMA 2022 #24**

No action took place.

3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for reappointment and new appointment to the Water Board.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #26**

No action took place.

4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for reappointments to the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #27**

No action took place.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for new appointments and reappointments to the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022
CMA 2022 #29**

No action took place.

6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for a new appointment and reappointments to the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022
CMA 2022 #30**

No action took place.

7. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for reappointments to the Half Crown-Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022
CMA 2022 #31**

No action took place.

8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to approval requested for a new appointment and reappointments to the Historical Commission. **CHARTER**

**RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR MALLON
IN COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PLACED ON THE TABLE IN COUNCIL MARCH 7, 2022 CMA 2022 #32**

No action took place.

9. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Emergency Management Performance Grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$39,600.00 to the Grant Fund Fire Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used to support the purchase of a new vehicle for the Emergency Preparedness and Coordination office.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR NOLAN IN COUNCIL MARCH 7,
2022.
CMA 2022 #38**

No action took place.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Young Kim, regarding Please introduce a Policy Order for Moving Van regulations in areas with no loading parking zone.

COM 351 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Sarah White, regarding Cambridge Green New Deal.
COM 352 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Janie Katz-Christy, regarding unknown woman killed by truck in Porter Square and rest of project area.
COM 353 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

4. A communication was received from Hasson Rashid, regarding Death of a Homeless Man in Harvard Square!.
COM 354 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

5. A communication was received from Hasson Rashid, regarding A Statement on the Start of Ramadan 2022 And Ramadan allows us to really put our priorities in place.
COM 355 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

6. A communication was received from Dr. Gleb Bahmutov, PhD, regarding strong support for green new deal and accurate fossil fuel building accounting.
COM 356 #2022

This communication was placed on file.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Congratulations to Gilda M. Nogueira for being named MAPS 2022 Person of the Year
Councillor Toner
RES 2022 #77

This resolution was adopted.

2. Congratulations to Julia Evora for being awarded the MAPS Jorge Fidalgo Community Service Award
Councillor Toner
RES 2022 #78

This resolution was adopted.

3. Congratulations to Debora Guimaraes for being awarded the MAPS Manuel Coutinho Outstanding Volunteer Award

Councillor Toner
RES 2022 #79

This resolution was adopted.

4. Condolences to the family of Miriam G. (Dottin) Cox

Councillor Simmons
RES 2022 #80

This resolution was adopted.

5. Congratulations to Dr. Norma Finkelstein on her Retirement

Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons
RES 2022 #81

This resolution was adopted.

6. Congratulations George R. Greenidge, Jr, American Sociological Association's Community & Urban Publicly Engaged Scholar Award Recipient 2022

Councillor McGovern
RES 2022 #82

This resolution was adopted.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Anthony Wilson, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

COF 2022 #37

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee

COF 2022 #38

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui sharing information from the latest School Committee meeting. On Thursday, March 24th, 2022 the School Committee held a [public hearing](#) on the FY 2023 Proposed Budget. The School Committee will vote on the budget Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.

[MCAS](#) testing begins this month. Students and their families have the option to opt-out of testing and there will be no penalty for the student or effect on their learning. For more information on MCAS, click the link above.

This communication was placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Nolan, transmitting a report from the Climate Crisis Working Group
COF 2022 #39

This communication from Mayor Siddiqui and Councillor Nolan shares the Climate Crisis Working Group report, which highlights a desperate need for a culture shift across the City if we plan to meet our aggressive climate goals by 2050. To read the full report, click [here](#).

This communication was referred to the Health & Environment Committee.